

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A liquid crystal display (LCD) module comprising a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area, said transparent front panel acting as an overcoat for protecting said LC layer and said rear panel against a reasonable external force.

2. The LCD module as defined in claim 1, wherein said peripheral area has a plurality of holes for receiving screws.

3. The LCD module as defined in claim 1, wherein said peripheral area includes a pair of flange portions extending from said central area.

4. The LCD module as defined in claim 1, wherein said central area has a thickness larger than a thickness of said peripheral area, whereby a step is formed in a vicinity of a boundary between said central area and said peripheral area.

5. The LCD module as defined in claim 1, wherein said transparent front panel comprises a first portion having a

thickness substantially equal to a thickness of said rear panel, and an second portion covering said first portion.

6. A combination switch structure comprising:

a liquid crystal (LCD) module including a transparent front panel, a rear panel and a liquid crystal (LC) layer sandwiched between said transparent front panel and said rear panel, said transparent front panel having a central area opposing areas of said LC layer and said rear panel and a peripheral area extending from said central area; and

a switch member operated by a movement of said peripheral area when said transparent front panel is applied with an external force.

7. The combination switch structure as defined in claim 6, further comprising at least one elastic member for urging said LCD module, wherein said switch member is pressed by pressing said transparent front panel against said elastic member.

8. The combination switch structure as defined in claim 7, wherein said at least one elastic member includes a pair of springs, and said LCD module swivels around a swivel axis when said transparent panel is pressed.

9. The combination switch structure as defined in claim 6,

further comprising a guide member fixed with respect to a casing
for guiding said LCD module along a surface of said casing,
wherein said switch member is operated by a slide movement of
5 said peripheral area.

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